

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1171

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2015

RE: S.R. No. 35
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Tourism and International Affairs, to which
was referred S.R. No. 35 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO
COORDINATE WITH THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY TO CREATE A MORE
WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHINESE VISITORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Hawaii
Tourism Authority to coordinate with trade organizations,
including the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, Hawaii
Restaurant Association, Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau,
Hawaii Transportation Association, and others in the hospitality
industry to create a more welcoming environment for Chinese
visitors.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii Tourism Authority and one individual.

Your Committee finds that it is important for the State to
diversify its visitor markets to offset weakness in one market by
strength in another. Your Committee further finds that China is
not the only market with increased visitor rates and that Other
Asia tourism markets include China as well as Korea, Taiwan, Hong
Kong, and Singapore. The ability for these international visitors
to communicate with hospitality industry employees during their
visit to Hawaii is key in ensuring their initial visit is a
welcoming experience. Your Committee therefore finds that it is
necessary to allow the hospitality industry to employ persons with



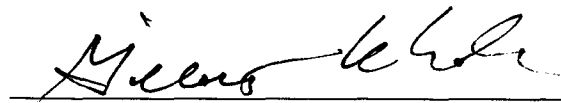
cultural and communication skills that will enable the employees to interact with international visitors in order to promote and encourage tourism from Other Asia tourism markets and elsewhere.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting provisions referencing Chinese visitors;
- (2) Inserting provisions referencing Other Asian tourism markets including China, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore;
- (3) Inserting provisions referencing the H-1B visa law;
- (4) Inserting language that urges the Hawaii Tourism Authority to coordinate with the hospitality industry, Corporation for Travel Promotion, and Hawaii's congressional delegation to seek amendments to the H-1B visa law to amend the definition of "specialized occupation" to include employees who are fluent in the languages of international visitors, with the cultural, reading, and writing skills necessary to communicate with international visitors;
- (5) Amending the title to reflect the amended intent of this measure; and
- (6) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Tourism and International Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 35, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, in the form attached hereto as S.R. No. 35, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Tourism and
International Affairs,



GILBERT KAHELE, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
TSI

Bill / Resolution No.:* <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">SR 35</div>	Committee Referral: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">TSI, WAM</div>	Date: <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-family: cursive;">23 MAR 2015</div>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 </div> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313 </div> </div>				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KAHELE, Gilbert (C)	X			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani (VC)	X			
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.				X
TOKUDA, Jill N.				X
SLOM, Sam	X			
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted </div>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive; margin-left: 20px;">J. Kalani English</div>				
Distribution: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>Original File with Committee Report</div> <div>Yellow Clerk's Office</div> <div>Pink Drafting Agency</div> <div>Goldenrod Committee File Copy</div> </div>				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**